

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 02921 241247Z

43

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5903

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2921

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (PRES. LEONE), IT

SUBJECT: LEONE VISIT

REF: STATE 39259

1. PRESIDENT LEONE'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER CAME TO SEE ME YESTERDAY AND SAID THAT PRESIDENT LEONE REGRETS THAT HE WILL BE UNABLE TO VISIT THE U.S. IN APRIL AND TO ACCEPT THE PRESIDENT'S KIND INVITATION FOR A MEETING ON APRIL 12. (REF) THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN ITALY IS EXTREMELY DELICATE AND WITH THE SOCIALIST AND CD CONGRESSES COMING UP IN MARCH THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER GOVERNMENT CRISES IS CONSIDERABLE. ACCORDINGLY, PRESIDENT LEONE BELIEVES HE MUST REMAIN IN ITALY DURING THIS PERIOD.

2. THE DIPLOMATIC ADVISER ASKED THAT I EXPRESS TO PRESIDENT LEONE'S DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE PRESIDENT'S COURTESY AND HIS HOPE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO RESCHEDULE THIS MEETING SOMETIME LATER THIS YEAR.

3. THE ITALIANS FULLY UNDERSTAND THE PRESIDENT'S HEAVY COMMITMENTS DURING THIS BICENTENNIAL AND ELECTION YEAR. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Authority: vogelfj
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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